Unemployed Science and Technology Qualified Persons

1788. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
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Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the estimates of Science and Technology qualified youth in the country who are unemployed;

(b) what steps are being taken to surmount this problem; and

(c) whether this problem will be dealt with on war footings before these persons go to developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The estimates of Science and Technology qualified youth in the country who are unemployed as per the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.1992 is 9.94 lakhs. This includes graduates and post graduates in Science, Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture.

(b) The Government has set up a National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board in 1982 as an institutional mechanism to promote gainful self employment in the country and to link idle science and technology manpower with the under utilised institutional credit facilities. The Board has initiated a number of programmes to help S&T graduates to become job generators rather than job seekers.

(c) Several steps have been taken from time to time by the Government to minimise the outflow as also to attract scientists settled abroad to return to India. Some of these are:

— Increase in the outlay for Science & Technology sector in successive Five Year Plans.

— Creation of new scientific Departmnets/Organisations.

— Setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in Universities and academic institutions.

— Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

— Manpower development training/ retraining programmes through associateships/fellowships/courses.

— Provisions for temporary placement of Scientists and Technocrats under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

— Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.

— Creation of a Special Cell in the Ministry of Industry for assisting non-resident Indians for setting up of industrial units in this country. Some states have also set up special cells and Departments for this.

— Provision of facilities for import of equipment for professionals returning from abroad.